



GRADUATE NEWS

October, 2011

Changes to the Reinstatement Process



Though most graduate students at ODU will never have to go through the process of reinstatement, it's always good to be prepared. Dr. Brenda Neumon Lewis, the Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies, would like to inform graduate students and remind Graduate Program Directors (GPDs) of some minor changes in the reinstatement process.

Reinstatement is the process by which the student returns to graduate study after suspension. Traditionally, the process has required students to submit a written request and accompanying documents to the Graduate Appeals Committee. This committee is comprised of six faculty members from different departments and one faculty senator.

"The idea was that this was an external group of people that could offer an unbiased opinion," says Dr. Lewis. In an effort to streamline this process, GPDs in the colleges

will now be directly responsible for reinstatement.

Graduate students should know that if they wish to be reinstated, they must submit requests to their GPD and not the Office of Graduate Studies. This new process will begin at the end of the fall semester.

The Graduate Appeals Committee will give students the ability to appeal the GPD's decision.

For more information, please refer to the Office of Graduate Studies' website (www.odu.edu/gradstudies) or contact the appropriate GPD.

Inside this issue:

Heath Sciences	2
Int'l Students	2
Higher Ed. Centers	3
Grad Photos	3
MFA Poem	4
Graduate Funding	4

Study Abroad for Graduate Students

"We are becoming more globalized and I think it's important for students to gain a cross-cultural understanding of the world," says Beth Parker, who is the faculty-led Study Abroad Coordinator.

The reasons not to study abroad appear numerous. Add a graduate level course load and studying abroad seems like *Mission Impossible*; however, the truth is, this priceless experience is more attainable than you might think.

Studying abroad can be paid for by financial aid, as well as through scholarships. There are several scholarships that can be applied for by students.

Not having enough time might be one of the biggest reasons grad students have for not

participating. However, ODU offers five different faculty-led study abroad trips that are taking place over spring break (February 29th—March 10th). Three of these trips are open to graduate students.

For example, every year Dr. Dennis Gregory takes a Comparative Higher Education class overseas to compare other education systems to that of the United States. This spring, he will take a class to Italy.

As a graduate student, it would be a great idea to look into one of these programs. According to Michael Dean, the Associate Director of Study Abroad, "In today's globally interconnected world, having experience in another country is a strong asset to have for gradu-



Graduate Students, in Shenzhen, China. Spring, 2011

ate students in any field of study."

The deadline for all faculty-led spring break programs is November 15th. For information, you can go to one of the weekly information sessions. They are held in 2008 Dragas Hall, Tuesdays at 12:30pm and Wednesdays at 3 pm. You can also visit the Study Abroad website at (odu.edu/ao/oip/studyabroad).

Reminders for Graduate Students!

* Graduate students will soon have access to the new degree evaluation tool, DegreeWorks, in the University Portal, myODU (myodu.edu). DegreeWorks is designed to assist advisors and students with course planning, measuring progress toward degree completion, and curriculum advising.

*All graduate students must complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) seven core RCR training modules. More information is available at odu.edu/ao/research

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

First Dental Hygiene Program in Nicaragua



Kleppe (left) and Prof. McCombs (right) visited the University of Nicaragua in June, 2011

Kendra Kleppe, a Health Sciences MS student in the School of Dental Hygiene, and Gayle McCombs, University Professor, have teamed up with Physicians For Peace to bring the first ever Dental Hygiene program to Central America.

One of the reasons Physicians for Peace looked to ODU for a partnership is because of the reputation of the dental hygiene program. "The ODU

School of Dental Hygiene is one of the premier dental hygiene programs in the country," says McCombs.

Professor McCombs knew this would be no small undertaking. "A project this big takes many people," she said. Being a graduate program director, McCombs saw this as an opportunity for a graduate student to gain some valuable experience.

"I jumped on the opportunity to participate on a dental mission with Physicians For Peace," says Kleppe.

In March, 2010 Kleppe and McCombs went to the University of Leon in Nicaragua and met with the dean and faculty of the dental school. As part of Kleppe's graduate work, she spent the next year developing the cur-

riculum and returned to Leon for two weeks as part of her internship.

This past July, Kleppe, McCombs, and new faculty member Tara Newcomb went to the university and presented the curriculum to the dean, faculty and the curriculum committee. While there, they gave lectures and delivered donated books and equipment. The hope is that this program will improve local access to preventative oral health care and provide employment opportunities.

Dental hygiene is new to the people of Leon and there is much work to be done to introduce the profession into the community. However, McCombs is committed. "We are in this for the long haul," she says, "I hope to be there

for the first graduating class and beyond—my goal is to see that this program is sustainable and to keep graduate students involved."

McCombs has already selected a new graduate student to help her next year. Carmelo Barrios will help next summer as the University of Leon sends faculty to ODU for training. Carmelo, speaks fluent Spanish and will be a tremendous asset to the program.

Health science graduate students who are serious about helping people, should join the newly formed Physicians For Peace student organization on campus, "they are looking for students and volunteers to help complement their projects," says Kleppe.

Meet Some International Graduate Students



Shiwie Jiang (Left) was born in Chong Quing City in southwest China. He came to ODU in 2009 to get his Ph.D. in International Studies. Jiang visited the United States for the first time in 2006 during a model UN convention at Harvard University in Boston Massachusetts. "For international studies, it's very important to be in a diverse culture," said Jiang. After his stay in Boston, he realized the United States has a wealth of diversity. "Mastering the language is the hardest part. If you can get the language you can begin to immerse yourself in the culture." Jiang's advice for new graduate students is to be outgoing and not to close themselves in their dorms. He loves it here, but sometimes he misses the China nightlife, "It's a little too quiet here," he says, "but it's peaceful."

Hadeel Ayoub (Right) comes to ODU from Saudi Arabia. She is 15 months shy of completing her M.S. in Dental Hygiene. After a brief experience with a dental program in London, Ayoub decided to transfer to a school in the United States. "I found that studying in the United States is more flexible," she says. "The good thing about this is that you have the opportunity to study what you really want..." Ayoub chose to study at ODU because of the incredible reputation of our Dental Hygiene program. She knows she made the right decision because she really enjoys the professors and the program. After she gets her Master's degree, Ayoub hopes to go on to achieve a doctorate. Like many international students she misses her family. But Ayoub gives some advice to incoming students: "Be open; you are in a different community, and believe me, it is a wonderful community."



ODU is a diverse campus filled with interesting and talented people from around the world. This section is reserved to showcase our incredible international graduate students.

If graduate professors have students they would like to see recognized, please contact nbens004@odu.edu.

ODU's Higher Education Centers



(Above) Virginia Beach Higher Education Center

One of ODU's greatest resources isn't located on main campus. The Higher Education Centers are extensions of main campus that are designed to make learning at ODU more accessible. There are three centers. They are located in Portsmouth, Newport News and Virginia Beach.

The Higher Education Centers were originally conceived as graduate centers. Since then, they have come to

house a variety of different graduate and undergraduate classes.

One of the key aspects of the centers are the state of the art, two way video class rooms. Students have a direct link to a professor. ODU has the ability to broadcast to the other centers. The students participate by pushing a button on an intercom which allows them to be heard and, in some classrooms, seen.

"There is a great deal of fluidity between the main campus and the learning centers, says Renee Olander, who is the Assistant V.P. of the Higher Education Centers.

One student who is pursuing her M.A. in education, said she rarely needs to visit ODU main campus to

achieve her goals. Whether it is writing assistance or a quiet place to work, the Virginia Beach center offers everything she needs.

For a graduate student living outside the ODU main campus, the Higher Education Centers will, without a doubt, prove to be useful.

If you are working on a dissertation or thesis, one of the centers can provide the comforts of campus without the commute to main campus.

ODU graduate students come from diverse backgrounds and have diverse needs. The centers try to meet those needs.

Olander knows that graduate students have a wide range of scholastic demands and she wants students to know that the Higher Education Centers offer a variety of

solutions.

For a complete list of graduate programs at the Higher Education Centers, please visit the website (<http://www.odu.edu/ao/vbhec/>) or feel free to visit center closest to you. The staff would be more than happy to assist you.

Graduate programs offered through the Higher Education Centers:

English (PhD), Accounting (MSA), Business Administration (MBA), Community College Leadership (PhD), Special Education (Ms.Ed), Civil Engineering (MS.)

And many others...

Graduate Photos



(Left) Mary Swartz, the University Registrar, speaks at a Graduate Administrators Workshop on September 28th, 2011.



(Above) The inaugural class of the Lifespan and Digital Communication Master's program, gather with the first "ODU Presents" speaker, and lifespans scholar, Jon Nussbaum (center), on September 27th, 2011.



(Left) Graduates and undergraduates in Belgium, as part of a study abroad program led by Sara Russell, instructor in the College of Business and Public Administration.



MFA on Display

Wendi White is a second year MFA student at ODU. She was the 2010 ODU college poetry prize winner. Although she originates from the beautiful Adirondacks of New York, Wendi has lived in various parts of the world including Vermont, Mexico, and the Philippines. Read her prize winning poem below.



Galilei's Glass

*How could this stick be the thing
that put us in our proper position,
that struck us from the center
to the sidelines of the firmament?*

*So homely and plain you might
mistake it for a broom handle,
the stave of a butter churn,
the spoke of a farmer's wagon.*

*But turned upon the heavens
four hundred years ago,
this unassuming cylinder found
Jupiter festooned with moons.*

*Unfixed they circled around their god
each with their own step and style,
advancing across his form, falling*

behind until we were dizzied

*By their dance. All was rearranged.
No longer the nexus of creation,
we have new orbits, humbled
by the heresy of a stick.*

- Wendi White

Possible Resources for Graduate Funding

- Northwestern University (giving.northwestern.edu/foundations/funding)
Current opportunity: The George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation - Fellowships in Photography, Anthropology, and Archaeology, due November 1, 2011
- National Science Foundation (nsf.gov/funding)
Current opportunity: Postdoctoral Fellowships in Polar Regions Research, due October 18, 2011
- Community of Science (COS) (fundingopps.cos.com)
Current opportunity: American Honda Foundation, due November 1, 2011

Get Recognized!

If your graduate department has something you think is worth sharing please send information to the email below. *Graduate News* is here to spread the word about the wonderful accomplishments of ODU students and faculty.

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Graduate News is online!
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